

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL2004/000541

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 E04F15/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E04F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 200 10 913 U (KUNNEMEYER HORNITEX) 8 March 2001 (2001-03-08) page 4, line 12 – page 5, line 15 figures 1-3 -----	1-15
A	CH 562 377 A (HEBGEN HEINRICH) 30 May 1975 (1975-05-30) the whole document -----	1,3,4
A	DE 101 54 767 A (GRAFENAUER THOMAS ; PRAGER MARTIN (DE); TYCHSEN DETLEF (DE)) 22 May 2003 (2003-05-22) figures 1,2 ----- -/-	1,3,4

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

## ° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA  
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Severens, G

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/NL2004/000541

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 203 00 306 U (E F P FLOOR PRODUCTS FUSBOEDEN) 17 April 2003 (2003-04-17)	10-15
A	page 3, paragraph 5 - page 4, paragraph 3 page 6, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3 page 14, paragraph 4 - page 17, paragraph 2 page 21, paragraph 3 - page 22, paragraph 2 page 23, paragraph 2 - page 24, paragraph 3 figure 4 -----	1,3-6
X	US 2002/020127 A1 (CAPPELLE MARK GASTON MAURITS ET AL) 21 February 2002 (2002-02-21) paragraph '0003! - paragraph '0004! figure 5 -----	10-15
A	DE 79 28 703 U (TERBROCK KUNSTSTOFF GMBH & CO KG) 2 July 1981 (1981-07-02) page 1, paragraph 3; figures 4-6,14-16 -----	1,10,13

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-15

flooring element with tongue - groove connection

---

2. claims: 10-15

flooring element with decoration

---

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/NL2004/000541

### Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/NL2004/000541

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 20010913	U	08-03-2001	DE DE	10021897 A1 20010913 U1	08-11-2001 08-03-2001
CH 562377	A	30-05-1975	DE DE AT CH CA	2159042 A1 2238660 A1 321529 B 562377 A5 991373 A1	14-06-1973 07-02-1974 10-04-1975 30-05-1975 22-06-1976
DE 10154767	A	22-05-2003	DE DE	10154767 A1 20121197 U1	22-05-2003 18-07-2002
DE 20300306	U	17-04-2003	DE DE WO WO EP EP	20300306 U1 20300291 U1 2004009930 A1 2004009931 A1 1382773 A1 1382774 A1	17-04-2003 27-11-2003 29-01-2004 29-01-2004 21-01-2004 21-01-2004
US 2002020127	A1	21-02-2002	BE AU BR CA CA DE DE WO EP JP NO PL	1013569 A3 7967701 A 0111803 A 2412641 A1 2453311 A1 20121828 U1 20122056 U1 0198603 A2 1292744 A2 2004501300 T 20026106 A 359810 A1	02-04-2002 02-01-2002 27-05-2003 27-12-2001 27-12-2001 05-06-2003 26-02-2004 27-12-2001 19-03-2003 15-01-2004 19-02-2003 06-09-2004
DE 7928703	U	02-07-1981	DE US	7928703 U1 4426820 A	02-07-1981 24-01-1984